

I CLAIM:

1. A wire winding device for an electrical wire of an electrical appliance, the electrical wire having one end provided with a plug portion, said wire winding device comprising:

5 a housing;

a winding unit mounted within said housing, said winding unit including a reel member adapted for winding and unwinding the electrical wire; and

10 a latch unit disposed movably within said housing, said latch unit engaging releasably said reel member to prevent said reel member from rotation in a winding direction of said reel member;

15 wherein said housing has at least one insert hole proximate to said latch unit for extension of the plug portion therethrough so as to press and disengage said latch unit from said reel member, thereby permitting said winding unit to wind the electrical wire.

20 2. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said latch unit includes a latch member having an engaging end engaged releasably with said reel member, and a press end opposite to said engaging end and proximate to said insert hole, and a biasing unit that biases said press end toward said insert hole so as to cause said engaging end to engage said reel member.

25 3. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said latch member further includes an intermediate part

interconnecting said engaging end and said press end, said press and engaging ends projecting respectively and transversely from two opposite ends of said intermediate part in opposite directions, said engaging 5 end extending toward said reel member, said press end extending below said insert hole and being biased by said biasing unit toward said insert hole.

4. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein 10 said plug portion extends externally of the electrical appliance.

5. An electrical appliance comprising:

15 a housing;
an electric unit mounted within said housing;
a winding unit mounted within said housing and including a reel member;

an electrical wire connected electrically to said electric unit and wound around said reel member, said electrical wire having one end provided with a plug portion; and

20 a latch unit disposed movably within said housing, said latch unit engaging releasably said reel member to prevent said reel member from rotation in a winding direction of said reel member;

25 wherein said housing has at least one insert hole proximate to said latch unit for extension of the plug portion therethrough so as to press and disengage said latch unit from said reel member, thereby permitting

said winding unit to wind the electrical wire.

6. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein
said latch unit includes a latch member having an
engaging end engaged releasably with said reel member,
5 and a press end opposite to said engaging end and
proximate to said insert hole, and a biasing unit that
biases said press end toward said insert hole so as to
cause said engaging end to engage said reel member.

7. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 6, wherein
10 said latch member further includes an intermediate part
interconnecting said engaging end and said press end,
said press and engaging ends projecting respectively
and transversely from two opposite ends of said
intermediate part in opposite directions, said engaging
15 end extending toward said reel member, said press end
extending below said insert hole and being biased by
said biasing unit toward said insert hole.

8. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 5,
wherein said housing further includes an outer wall and
20 a socket member disposed within said outer wall, said
insert hole being formed in said socket member.

9. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 8,
wherein said outer wall has a cutout portion, said socket
member being fitted within said cutout portion.

25 10. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 8,
wherein said socket member is formed as one piece with
said outer wall.

11. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said socket member has a face wall flush with said outer wall, and a peripheral wall extending laterally and inwardly from said face wall, said face wall and said peripheral wall cooperating to define a receiving space, said plug portion being received in said receiving space.

5 12. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said socket member further includes two first pins extending outwardly from said peripheral wall in a first direction, and a second pin extending outwardly from said peripheral wall in a second direction opposite to said first direction, said first and second pins engaging said outer wall.

10 13. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said insert hole is formed in said face wall.

14. The electrical appliance as claimed in Claim 8, wherein a pair of said insert holes are formed in said socket member.

15 20 15. The wire winding device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said plug portion extends externally of the electrical appliance.

16. A method for winding an electrical wire of an electrical appliance, which includes a housing, a reel member mounted within said housing to wind up said electrical wire, and a latch unit to engage and prevent said reel member from rotation in a winding direction

of said reel member, said electrical wire having a plug portion at one end, said method comprising:

(1) providing an insert hole in an outer wall of said housing; and

5 (2) inserting said plug portion into said insert hole to press said latch unit so as to disengage said latch unit from said reel member, thereby permitting said reel member to wind the electrical wire.